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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

11 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF, POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

SUBJECT: Daily Report.

BGCENVOY.

[] reports that the covert Bulgarian transmitter METAPHOR began forecasting the death of Stalin on 5 March. Heaviest emphasis was given to the expected replacement of Stalin's men through the Red world. On 7 March the entire program was devoted to his demise, warning the Bulgarian Communists that this event sets the stage for a purge of the Chervenkov group at all levels. The commentary reviewed Stalin's ruthless life, the current Kremlin struggle, and emphasized its repercussions in Bulgaria. Stalin's record was compared to the liquidation of prewar Communists, especially Kostov, by party bureaucrats. Comment pointed up the current intrigues in the ECP involving Tchankov, Damyanov and Mihailov. The March 8 commentary stressed the weak position of the Chervenkov group as a result of the Balkan Pact. The radio plans daily features along the lines of the Headquarters guidance beginning 10 March. The above themes were the product of the field's initiative. They are not however in conflict with the guidance that was sent from Hdqs. [] (2993; IN 44711, dated 10 March 1953)

BGFIRND.

from 5-9 March

The Albanian transmitter HTGRUBBY covered the themes of the suspicious nature of Stalin's death in view his prior healthy appearance, suggesting the possibility of foul play, Stalin's death gives great hope for Albania, in view of the ensuing power struggle and the inevitability of purges in Albania. Malenkov was presented as brash and inexperienced. At the same time [] attempted to debunk the glorification of Stalin. Future themes will contrast the Balkan entente with the impending disunity within Communist ranks, the coming purges in Albania and attempt to encourage defection. Malenkov will be represented as being an even worse imperialist than Stalin, with the result that there will be an even greater degree of slavery for Albania. The station will develop rumors of new Hoxha-Shehu rift and give the names of probable purgees. The propaganda changes in Albania necessitated by the new deification of Malenkov will be made the butt of sarcastic humor. Beginning 10 March, daily features are to be presented along the lines of the Headquarters guidance. [] (2996; IN 44704 dated 10 March 1953)

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